

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) A method for billing for services in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

bridging at a service node within the network a first call made by a calling party with a second call established to a called party to create a bridged call;

processing the bridged call in accordance with signaling information associated therewith to create a processed call;

creating a billing module for the processed call that includes billing information associated therewith; and

merging the processed call and said billing module into ~~The method of claim 1,~~
~~wherein said another node comprises a service switching point.~~

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Canceled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for billing for services in a communication network, comprising the steps of:

bridging at a service node within the network a first call made by a calling party with a second call established to a called party to create a bridged call;

processing the bridged call in accordance with signaling information associated therewith to create a processed call, ~~The method of claim 1, wherein the signaling~~

~~information comprises~~ said signaling information comprising a trigger to initiate a call conferencing feature and processing the call based on the signaling information ~~comprises;~~ and

creating a billing module for the processed call that includes billing information associated therewith.

wherein said step of processing comprises establishing a second call and a third call through a service switching point; and bridging the first, second and third calls with each other, wherein the billing module includes service values related to billing information for the call conferencing feature.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
invoking a call merge procedure to merge the bridged calls along with the billing module into the network.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the service values include telephone numbers for the second and third calls.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the service values include a time stamp that indicates when the first, second and third calls were merged.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for billing for services in a communication network, comprising the steps of:
bridging at a service node within the network a first call made by a calling party with a second call established to a called party to create a bridged call;
processing the bridged call in accordance with signaling information associated therewith to create a processed call;
creating a billing module for the processed call that includes billing information associated therewith;
merging the processed call and said billing module into another node in the network;~~The method of claim 1, further comprising:~~
receiving the created billing module by a service switching point;
appending the billing module to a billing record for the first call; and

sending the billing record including the appended billing module to a billing system for generating a bill.

13. (Original) A method for billing for services offered by an advanced intelligent network (AIN), the method comprising:

- receiving a trigger to initiate a call transfer feature at a service node;
- creating a first billing module to identify the call transfer feature;
- establishing a call to a target party of the call transfer through a service switching point;
- unbridging an existing call between a calling party and a called party;
- bridging the calling party call and the established target party call;
- creating a second billing module including a date and time stamp indicating when the call between the calling party and the target party is bridged at the service node;
- invoking a call merge procedure by removing the bridged call between the calling party and the called party from the service node and merging the bridged calls into the service switching point; and
- sending the created first and second billing modules to the service switching point during the call merge procedure.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:

- receiving the created billing modules by the service switching point;
- appending the billing modules to a billing record for the calling party call; and
- sending the billing record including the appended billing modules to a billing system for generating a bill.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

- receiving the calling party call at the service switching point;
- creating the billing record for the calling party call, the billing record containing the billing information for the calling party call;
- responsive to an AIN trigger from the calling party, launching a query to a service control point;
- receiving an address for the service node; and

sending the calling party call to the service node identified by the address.

16. (Original) A method for billing for services offered by an advanced intelligent network (AIN), the method comprising:

- receiving a trigger to initiate a call conferencing feature at a service node;
- creating a first billing module to identify the call conferencing feature;
- establishing a call to a target party for the conference call through the service switching point;

- bridging the established target party call with an existing call between a calling party and a called party to establish the conference call;

- creating a second billing module including a date and time stamp indicating when the conference call with the target party was connected;

- invoking a call merge procedure by removing the bridged call between the calling party, the called party and the target party from the service node and merging the bridged conference call into the service switching point; and

- sending the created first and second billing modules to the service switching point during the call merge procedure.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

- receiving the created billing modules by the service switching point;
- appending the billing modules to a billing record for the calling party call;

and

- sending the billing record including the appended billing modules to a billing system for generating a bill.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

- receiving the calling party call at the service switching point;
- creating the billing record for the calling party call, the billing record containing billing information for the calling party call;

- responsive to an AIN trigger from the calling party, launching a query to a service control point;

- receiving an address for the service node; and

sending the calling party call to the service node identified by the address.